

HOUSE No. 1166

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven S. Howitt

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to establishing a health safety net task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Steven S. Howitt

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

4th Bristol

HOUSE No. 1166

By Mr. Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1166) of Steven S. Howitt relative to establishing a health safety net task force. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to establishing a health safety net task force.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 66 of Chapter 118E of the general laws, as so appearing, is here by amended by
2 inserting in place the following new section:

3 “Section XX. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a
4 special task force to review and report on the Health Safety Net and the financial impact of the
5 reimbursement for basic and restorative dental care provided by Massachusetts Dental Schools to
6 MassHealth members. The task force shall consist of 11 members: the house and senate chairs of
7 the joint committees on health care financing or their designees, who shall serve as the co-chairs
8 of the task force; a member of the general court appointed by the senate minority leader; a
9 member of the general court appointed by the house minority leader; the Commissioner of the
10 Massachusetts Department of Public Health, or a designee; the president of Tufts Dental School,
11 or a designee; the President of Harvard Dental School; the president of Boston University Dental
12 school; and 5 persons to be appointed by the secretary of the Executive Office of Health and
13 Human Services.

14 This task force shall: (i) identify and review all current state laws, regulations, and
15 administrative directives that relate to health care reimbursement; (ii) identify financial and
16 procedural steps that would best allow payment to Boston’s teaching facilities through
17 MassHealth; (iii) submit recommendations to establish legislative procedures that provide
18 funding, regulate, and grant reimbursement power to MassHealth for basic and restorative dental
19 care to accredited Massachusetts Dental Schools.

20 The task force shall submit a report, including any draft legislation and regulations, to the
21 clerks of the house and representatives and the senate within 12 months of the passage of this act.